

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 M-03 A-01 CPR-01 SCA-01 RSR-01

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P 081437 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMXASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECTSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0043

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0605

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR LY US

SUBJECT: PNG OF ADCM MARTHINSEN

REF: STATE 086514

1. AFTER LEARNING FROM HIS OFFICE THAT BABA IS OUT OF TOWN TODAY, CHARGE CALLED CHIEF PROTOCOL ABU SHAQUR TO EXPLAIN STATE OF PLAY (TRIPOLI 597) AND DISCUSS TIMING OF MARTHINSEN'S DEPARTURE.

2. ABU SHAQUR SAID HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY BABA YESTERDAY AFTER CHARGE'S CALL TO LATTER MAY 7. HE HAD ALSO SPOKEN TO U/S NAJIB SHAYBANI ABOUT WHOLE MATTER AND COULD SAY THAT MFA'S CALL FOR MARTHINSEN'S DEPARTURE " AS SOON AS POSSIBLE" MEANT JUST THAT. HE WAS AWARE, HE SAID, THAT CHARGE HAD SUGGESTED A DELAY OF THREE WEEKS, BUT FRANKLY THOUGHT THAT FAR TOO LONG. IN FACT, HE UNDERSTOOD THE U/S HAD IN MIND SATURDAY, MAY 12.

3. CHARGE SAID THAT OF COURSE HE WAS THINKING OF THE SCHOOL TERM AND MARTHINSEN'S PREFERENCE NOT TO LEAVE HIS FAMILY BEHIND. HE ASSUMED THAT AT LEAST MRS.
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MARTHINSEN AND CHILDREN COULD STAY THREE WEEKS. ABU SHAQUR SAID " OF COURSE"; THEY CAN STAY TO THE END OF THE MONTH", AND AGREED TO MAKE THAT A COMMITMENT.

4. RE MARTHINSEN HIMSELF, CHARGE SUGGESTED A COMPROMISE PERIOD. ABU SHAQUR SAID PERHAPS A SMALL EXTENSION COULD BE ARRANGED, TO MAY 14 SPECIFICALLY. CHARGE REPLIED HE WOULD CONSULT WITH MARTHINSEN AND BE BACK IN TOUCH IF HE DESIRED AN EXTENSION UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. CHARGE ADDED EMBASSY WOULD, OF COURSE, BE SENDING A NOTE TO MFA PROTESTING MARTHINSEN INCIDENT AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST COUNTRYMAN. COULD ABU SHAQUR AT THIS TIME OFFER ANY EXPLANATIONS OR EXPRESSIONS OF LARG ATTITUDE, AS THESE MIGHT BE USEFUL IN DRAFTING OUR NOTE. ABU SHAQUR SAID HE COULD NOT, AND AS A MATTER OF FACT " THE EXPERT" ON THE SUBJECT WAS BABA WHO SHOULD RETURN FROM BENGHAZI IN NEXT DAY OR TWO. CHARGE MIGHT TALK TO HIM. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD DO THAT, BUT WONDERED WHETHER HE COULD ALSO HAVE AN APPT AT HIGHER LEVEL. ABU SHAQUR SAID YES AND THAT IN FACT HE WAS " MAKING" APPT WITH ACTING FONMIN OBEIDI AT REQUEST OF U/ S. THIS WOULD SUBSTITUTE FOR JYMDVXDDGE# HAD REQUESTED AT EVEN HIGHER LEVEL WHICH " FRANKLY, PROBABLY NOT POSSIBLE".

6. CHARGE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO TALK WITH FONMIN. HE WOULD, OF COURSE, MENTION LATEST INCIDENTS TO HIM BUT BELIEVED IT WOULD BE BEST HAVE A GENERAL TOUR D' HORIZON RATHER THAN ZERO IN ON THESE OR OTHER VARIOUS SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IN US/ LIBYAN RELATIONS, OF WHICH THERE WERE MANY.

7. COMMENT: ABU SHAQUR WAS BRISK AND BUSINESS- LIKE, AS USUAL, AND APPARENTLY WANTED TO BE, OR A LEAST SEEM TO BE, REASONABLE WITHIN HIS GUIDELINES.
JOSIF

NOTE BY OCT: TRIPOLI 605 # AS RECEIVED.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.
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